

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Claim Status

Claims 1, 7, and 9 stand rejected. Claims 2-6, 8, and 10-12 stand objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim Amendments

Claims 8, 10, and 12 are cancelled. Claims 1, 2, and 7 are currently amended to further characterize the system and method such that nodes are divided into groups of one or more nodes each dependent on a combined normalized node weight and that the three-dimensional area is divided dependent on the combined normalized node weights of the groups.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 7 and 9 allegedly stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Asahi et al. in view of Smartt (US 5,963,956)..

As stated in the office action:

“As per claims 1 and 7, Asahi et al discloses representing the database of objects with a hierarchical tree (pg 405, column 1) derived from object metadata (NBA player info); pre-assigning a predetermined parent (root) node to an area corresponding to the undivided graphical environment (pg 405, 2nd column); starting with the predetermined node, for each area corresponding to each parent (root) node in the tree having at least two associated child nodes: recursively partitioning the area into a plurality of areas corresponding to each associated child node such that the areas are proportional to the weight of each child node (pg 405, 2nd column). However, Ashai et al does not disclose . . . partitioning a three-dimensional graphical environment for displaying representative images of objects in a database. This is disclosed in Smartt It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to partition a 3D graphical environment with a hierarchical tree because this would have increased processor speed because the hierarchical tree made handling large volumes of information much easier.”

Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate elements of Claims 2 and 8 into Claims 1 and 7. In particular, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 7 by including elements of Claims 2 and 8 which include the elements of dividing a parent's associated child nodes


into groups of one or more nodes each dependent on a combined normalized node weight and partitioning the three-dimensional area dependent on each group's combined normalized weight. As suggested by the Office Action, these aspects are neither disclosed nor suggested by neither Asahi nor Smartt. Consequently, currently amended Claims 1 and 7 are not unpatentable in view of Asahi and Smartt or the combination thereof.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by these remarks and amendments. This application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Withdrawal of all rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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